

**Post- Workshop Summary Notes  
Ford Ord Environmental Cleanup  
Community Involvement Workshop**

January 13, 2010

Marina Library, Marina, CA

Facilitator: Charles Gardiner

The below listed material was provided to workshop attendees:

- Agenda
- Presentation Slides –Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement Update
- Presentation Slides – Groundwater Update
- 2010 What Happens Next Calendar
- BRAC Cleanup Team Meeting Minutes
- Post-Workshop Summary Notes October 14, 2009
- Fact Sheet: Questions and Answers about Fort Ord Groundwater
- Fact Sheet: Update on U.S. Army Fort Ord Prescribed Burn Program, January 2010

**Agenda Topics**

- Update: Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement
- Update: Fort Ord Groundwater Cleanup

**Attendees**

- Martin Hausladen, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Judy Huang, EPA
- Lewis Mitani, EPA
- Viola Cooper, EPA
- Bill Mabey, TechLaw
- Franklin Mark, California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- Roman Racca, DTSC
- John Christopher, DTSC
- Gail Youngblood, U.S. Army Base Realignment and Closure, Fort Ord Field Office (Army)
- Bill Collins, Army
- Lyle Shurtleff, Army
- Chieko Nozaki, Army
- David Eisen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (USACE)
- Grant Himebaugh, California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Roy Evans, HydroGeoLogic
- Charles Gardiner, CirclePoint
- Dave Kelly, Shaw Environmental (Shaw)
- Derek Lieberman, Ahtna Engineering Services
- Carl Niizawa, Marina Coast Water District (MCWD)
- Evelina Adlawan, MCWD
- Jan Sweigert, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Lindsay Alexander, Shaw
- Mike Weaver, Fort Ord Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- Stan Cook, Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA)
- Chris Prescott, USACE
- Jeff Swanson, Westcliffe Engineers

- LeVonne Stone, Fort Ord  
Environmental Justice Network  
(FOEJN)
- Donald Stone, FOEJN
- Richard Bailey, CAG
- Scott Lutes, USACE
- Nancy Amadeo
- Gordon Nakagawa
- Bart Kowolski, USACE
- Kristie Reimer, ARCADIS
- Rob Robinson, Army
- Chris Spill, ARCADIS

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Charles Gardiner, facilitator for the meeting, made introductions and gave an overview of the agenda.

### **Presentation: Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement Remediation Program**

Mr. Stan Cook, Program Manager for the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) Remediation Program, provided an update of the ESCA project. He reviewed the ESCA community involvement activities of 2009, provided updates on the ESCA Track 1 no further action proposal for the County North Munitions Response Area, and then provided the ESCA document schedule for 2010. The ESCA community involvement program is guided by the “ACCORD” principle. Key ESCA outreach actions in 2009 included: informal community workshops, monthly emergency service provider meetings, monthly user’s group meetings, ESCA presentations at FORA board meetings, and at the Army’s Community Involvement Workshops and a very successful trash pick-up day. His presentation continued with an overview of the ESCA Munitions Response Areas by group. The update continued with a status review of the County North Track 1 actions. Fifty-one comment letters were received. The next steps in the Track 1 Plug-in approval memorandum process are (1) complete the responsiveness summary, (2) complete regulatory review and approval process, and then (3) issue the final approval memo. The presentation continued with an update of the Parker Flats investigation and brush cutting activities. Mr. Cook also provided details on the types of items that had been discovered in the Parker Flats area. The ESCA document schedule and document process were also discussed. He provided an overview of upcoming ESCA-related meetings and events. He recommended checking the ESCA information hotline (883-3506) or the new ESCA web site ([www.fora-esca-rp.com](http://www.fora-esca-rp.com)) for information.

### **There were several questions regarding the ESCA presentation.**

Mr. Bailey asked for clarification about the Group 2 components of the ESCA program. Mr. Cook replied that the ESCA Group 2 properties are composed of both Track 1 and Track 2 areas. The County North portion is being handled as Track 1. Mr. Bailey had a follow-on question regarding field work in the Group 2 ESCA area. Mr. Cook responded that the County North (Track 1) area has already been investigated by the Army and additional investigations will be done under the ESCA program. Based on the investigations that have been conducted, the area was not categorized as Track 2.

Mr. Weaver noted that 50 acres of oak trees were cut in the California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) ESCA site. Ms. Reimer noted that only 17.5 acres of oak trees were cut. Mr. Cook added that tree removal is required to conduct the investigation part of the residential quality assurance pilot study.

Mr. Weaver also asked if the investigation included the use of a Schonstedt. Mr. Swanson responded that the initial investigation/clearance was conducted with the use of a Schonstedt; however, digital geophysics was also used to confirm/validate the analog investigation/clearance. Mr. Weaver stated that Monterey County, a future property recipient, should be involved with the munitions clearance actions in this area. Ms. Reimer acknowledged the comment and stated the work had been coordinated with the County Redevelopment Agency.

Ms. Stone wanted to know why so many trees were cut during the investigation process. Mr. Cook responded that trees are removed only when necessary. Mr. Stone asked why documentation was so important now. Mr. Cook explained that many people who review multiple documents would like to look ahead so they can schedule for the workload.

There were no additional questions or comments on the ESCA presentation.

### **Groundwater Update**

The workshop continued with a presentation on the groundwater cleanup by Derek Lieberman. He provided a brief history of the Fort Ord groundwater investigation and cleanup program and noted the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) supplies water to the City of Marina and the former Fort Ord. The water supplied to Fort Ord meets regulatory standards. Additionally, water quality is regularly tested by MCWD and the results are reported in an annual Consumer Confidence Report. Mr. Lieberman continued with a brief review of groundwater definitions and terms. He also presented a conceptual site model to explain how groundwater moves in the Fort Ord area. The presentation continued by discussing the background, location and cleanup details for the Fort Ord groundwater contamination plumes.

The presentation continued with detailed information about Trichloroethene (TCE) and Carbon Tetrachloride (CT) detections in MCWD water supply wells (Wells 29, 30 and 31) on the former Fort Ord. The Army has sampled these wells regularly since 1987 and MCWD currently samples at least quarterly. The first detections above the reporting limit of 0.5 mg/L for TCE in a water supply well (Well 29) were in samples collected in September 2001. Well 30 had the first detection of TCE above the reporting limit of 0.5 mg/L in July 2006 and Well 31 had detections of TCE above the reporting limit of 0.5 mg/L in June 2009.

The Army has recently coordinated with a laboratory that is certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State of California to analyze drinking water samples, directing the laboratory to re-evaluate the groundwater analysis results the Army collected between 2006 and present to determine the possible presence of and estimate the concentration of CT (also a commonly used solvent) in those samples.

Using USEPA approved Standard Methods, CT had not been detected in these samples historically because the CT concentrations are below the USEPA defined Method Detection Limit. The laboratory was able to estimate very low concentrations of CT below the Method Detection Limit in two of the three drinking water wells (Well 30 and Well 31). These estimated CT concentrations are also below Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act maximum allowable contaminant levels.

Charts showing the concentrations of TCE and CT over time were presented. In summary, Mr. Lieberman noted that TCE and CT concentrations in supply wells are not expected to increase significantly and the concentration levels are expected to continue to meet drinking water standards. Additionally, monitoring wells upgradient of supply wells show stable or declining concentration trends. Dynasty Farms operated an agricultural well in the area of the water supply wells. Pumping from this well may have contributed to the movement of TCE and CT toward the water supply wells, but the Dynasty Farms well was later properly destroyed and is no longer causing this problem. An additional remediation extraction well will also be installed in Upper 180-Foot Aquifer to as part of the groundwater cleanup in this area and prevent TCE and CT from moving toward the water supply wells.

Fort Ord groundwater protection remedies have two key components. First, there are institutional controls preventing access to groundwater consisting of deed restrictions, land use covenants, Marina municipal code as well as Monterey County Code. Second, there are engineering controls which comprise the groundwater treatment systems. Mr. Lieberman presented a map that identified (1) the “prohibition zone” which encompasses the area overlying or adjacent to the Fort Ord groundwater plumes and (2) the “consultation zone” which encompasses areas adjacent to the Fort Ord groundwater plumes. Mr. Lieberman also provided a review of the groundwater treatment systems at the former Fort Ord.

There were several questions about this presentation.

Ms. Stone asked what TCE and CT were. Mr. Lieberman replied that both TCE and CT were solvents widely used in the past for cleaning mechanical parts.

Ms. Stone was also concerned about the suspected “hole” in the aquitard and the potential migration of the contamination plume into the City of Marina. Mr. Christopher, a toxicologist for DTSC, discussed various exposure possibilities. He added that CT can be detected in two ways: by monitoring the groundwater or by monitoring the ambient air. Both pathways were considered in the Army’s assessments. Continuing the cleanup actions should result in reduction in contaminant levels over time.

Mr. Weaver asked if the Army was testing for perchlorate. Ms. Sweigert, a representative of the California Department of Public Health, an agency responsible for the oversight of drinking water quality, stated there is a new standard for perchlorate and MCWD is monitoring for it. Mr. Weaver had a follow-up comment that there is a

perchlorate problem in the Salinas Valley with an unknown source. He suspected that Fort Ord could be the source.

Mr. Weaver asked if the water is being tested for chemicals other than TCE. Ms. Adlawan of the MCWD responded that the drinking water is regularly tested for many chemicals. The results are included in the annual Consumer Confidence Report.

Mr. Weaver asked if the drought had any effect on the groundwater cleanup. Mr. Lieberman responded that the El Niño conditions of 1998-1999 had an effect on groundwater cleanup because heavy precipitation increased water levels in the A-aquifer. Mr. Weaver noted that the groundwater plume in the Armstrong Ranch area has gotten larger. Mr. Lieberman stated this was not true and the plume had gotten smaller.

Mr. Weaver asked what the ratio of blending for the water from the supply wells was. Ms. Adlawan responded that the water comes together in the intermediate tank and sand tank. These tanks supply drinking water to both the Central Marina and Ord Community distribution systems. Low-levels of TCE (about 0.5 parts per billion) were detected in the sand tank.

A community member commented that it is possible to have an increase in the levels of CT and TCE. Mr. Lieberman responded that CT and TCE concentrations are not expected to increase because the groundwater treatment systems are removing the contamination from the groundwater and the source of contamination has also been removed. He added that the Army monitors a network of over 300 wells. Well monitoring results indicate generally decreasing contaminant concentrations for CT and TCE.

There were no additional questions regarding this presentation.

### **Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Report**

Ms. Stone opened her presentation by noting the Fort Ord Environmental Justice (FOEJN) technical consultant, Dr. Peter deFur, was not available for this workshop. FOEJN has been working for changes in the Fort Ord cleanup by working with the community, talking with people about cleanup issues and working with people responsible for the cleanup. She noted that FOEJN has done a good job by submitting comments that have become a part of the Fort Ord Administrative Record. She noted that Fort Ord is one of the largest cleanup sites. FOEJN works to assess impacts on community health from contamination sources. There is also concern that people are also impacted by the current economic conditions. She noted that there is a local housing problem—individuals do not have enough money to move. FOEJN has been active in helping low income individuals who have been left out of the Fort Ord decision-making process. FOEJN wants a seat at the table when Fort Ord cleanup decisions are being made.

FOEJN is concerned about the Fort Ord landfill. There is no buffer zone for the Fort Ord landfill—the purpose of buffer zones was to prevent people living near the landfill from exposure to hazards. She noted that the agencies regulating the Fort Ord cleanup process do not see the impacts to people. She reiterated the FOEJN request for an improved cleanup process—a process that respects people. FOEJN is an education-oriented community group. In November, FOEJN met with representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as representatives of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District to discuss prescribed burns.

Ms. Stone noted that many of the workshop participants [representing regulatory agencies and the Army] are paid [working] when they attend the Community Involvement Workshop. FOEJN is not paid to participate in the Workshop. The FOEJN staff included an administrative assistant and a community outreach specialist.

Ms. Stone concluded her remarks by suggesting a different approach to developing risk assessment – an approach that includes greater community input.

Ms. Viola Cooper, Community Involvement Coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), thanked Ms. Stone and FOEJN for work they have completed as a part of their Technical Assistance Grant. Ms. Cooper noted that this TAG was for 5 years and that the current grant would be ending in the next few days. There will be a new TAG for the next 5 years. USEPA has received letters of interest from League of United Latin Citizens, Marina in Motion and another group. The availability of the new TAG was announced this past summer. A November public notice regarding the TAG was published in the Monterey County Herald and the Salinas Californian. EPA received applications from two groups, Marina in Motion and FOEJN. EPA has encouraged the groups to form a coalition; however, the groups will be applying independently. For the next step, the EPA will evaluate the TAG applications. The deadline for application was January 22, 2010. The EPA hopes to award the TAG quickly; however, in the interim, the EPA has a provision to provide technical assistance to the community during this evaluation and award process. For more information about EPA's Technical Assistance Grant, contact Viola Cooper at (415) 972-3243.

### **Fort Ord Community Advisor Group (CAG) Report**

Mr. Bailey, a member of the CAG, provided the CAG report. Mr. Bailey noted that he reviews all Fort Ord cleanup documents. Mike Weaver, who also receives documents on behalf of the CAG, is a member of the CAG and represents the Highway 68/Salinas community. Mr. Bailey noted that prescribed burns remain an issue with the CAG. Burning is unpopular and also very expensive. Wind conditions are unpredictable and the community can experience impacts. He noted that the Army spends a lot of time waiting for the appropriate weather conditions for prescribed burns.

Mr. Bailey continued by noting CAG concerns about the residual contamination from munitions and explosives of concern clearance. There is soil contamination from heavy metals as well as water soluble contaminants. Rain water can react with the surface contamination and, eventually, the soil contamination can move into the aquifers. As the

groundwater resources are very precious, he recommended that the Army continue to monitor groundwater quality.

### **Open Forum**

There were no comments during this time.

### **BRAC Cleanup Team**

Meeting minutes from recent BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) meetings were available at this meeting. They are also available in the Administrative Record, at the information repositories, and can be downloaded from [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com).

### **Closing the Loop**

A community member wanted to know the month of the Fort Ord Reuse Authority's training burn in 2005. This training fire was during October 2005.

### **What Happens Next**

The following events were noted:

June 26 Community Bus Tour / Open House

### **Open House**

An informal gathering of the attendees was held.  
The workshop was closed.